

WHITNEY TO BLAME, COMPTROLLER SAYS

Mr. Craig Says Commissioner Caused Delays Costing City Many Millions.

HUGE SETTLEMENT NEAR

Contractors Expect to Collect \$600,000 Damages Instead of \$10,000.

Comptroller Charles L. Craig issued his promised statement yesterday in regard to the claim for damages pending before him by the International Construction Company which Travis Whitney, Public Service Commissioner, charged the Comptroller was about to settle for approximately \$10,000, although, in the opinion of the Service Board officials, the damages would not exceed \$100,000.

Mr. Craig puts the blame for delay in rapid transit construction on Commissioner Whitney, and the Comptroller issued a statement in which he put the blame upon Mr. Craig.

The Comptroller condemned the commission's policy in the cancellation of uncompleted contracts and charged that the real purpose of the Lockwood law, which permits the making of new ones for completion of the work on a cost basis, was to prevent any disclosure being made of the liabilities he charges the Public Service Commission has imposed on the city by neglect of its duties.

Mr. Craig's statement in part follows:

"Cost City Many Millions."

"Upon Commissioner Whitney more than any other living person rests the responsibility for this condition of affairs. If the Public Service Commission had promptly proceeded with the plans and contracts there appears no reason why the dual subway system should not have been completed on January 1, 1917. This delay has resulted enormously to the benefit of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company and costs the city of New York many millions of dollars for which it obtains no return whatever.

The form of contract for construction subjects the contractor to a penalty of from \$500 to \$500 per day for delay in completion of their work beyond the contract period. Delays by the Public Service Commission in the preparation and delivery of plans rendered it impossible for contractors under such penalties to finish their work within the contract periods, which expired before the entry of the United States into the war.

"Early this year Commissioner Whitney and his associates drafted and procured the passage of what is known as the 'Lockwood law.' It was not until recently that the purpose of this law was disclosed. That purpose, in a word, was to prevent any disclosure ever being made as to the liabilities that Commissioner Whitney and his associates have imposed upon the city of New York for their delays and neglect of their duties.

Case of the Intercontinental.

"Under the Whitney scheme for the wholesale cancellation of subway construction contracts no disclosure of the delays and facts is attempted to obscure the facts by verbose assertions of non-liability. The Public Service Commission obtained an adjournment of the proceeding before the Comptroller and on October 24, 1918, gave the Comptroller a written assurance that the contract would be produced one week from that date, namely October 31, 1918.

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HOLDUP MEN SHOOT, CLERK; STEAL \$2,000

Charles St. Robbers Escape in Motor With Payroll.

ONLY SHORING IS BURNED

Four Alarms Bring Much Apparatus to Hanson Place in Rush Hour.

The center of Brooklyn's transit system—subway, elevated and surface—was crippled just after 6 o'clock last evening, when the smokestack fire that has occurred in the borough in years started to burn sixty feet under the surface of Hanson place, at the corner of St. Felix street. The fire was at the base of the Ashland place connection of the new Eastern Parkway subway, which is nearly ready for use.

The exact cause of the fire is not known, but because of the potential danger arising from the potential location Acting Fire Chief Martin took no chances and turned in four alarms. A myriad of hose lines were stretched down into the tunnel and within an hour the blaze was extinguished.

Police Sergeant John J. Reid of the Bergen street station saw a tiny tongue of flame eating its way up between the planks in the temporary roadway where the subway excavation alongside the Hanson Place Methodist Episcopal Church, which is at St. Felix street. As the policeman started to see where the fire came from there was a mild explosion, which the firemen said afterward they thought was merely the bursting of some small paint or oil pots in the excavation.

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His lowest waistcoat button and the buckle of his belt, in deflecting a revolver bullet fired downward at such close range that the powder scorched a spot as big as a saucer on the waistcoat, probably saved Orazio Rico, a clerk at the Italian consulate, yesterday from a death as hideous as harakiri must be. Rico escaped with a slight black and blue mark due to the bullet's impact.

Rico went to the Beach street police station and made a complaint against the man who had done the shooting. This was an Italian laborer known to the police as Antonio Toffi, 39, and at the consulate as Antonio Tobbi of 620 East 188th street, The Bronx.

Toffi was released last summer from the Blackwell's Island penitentiary after doing thirty months for violation of the Sullivan law. A year before that, according to Capt. Arthur Carey, Toffi had been arrested and indicted in connection with the death of Fannie Garaci of 510 East Thirtieth street. The woman's body, with a bullet wound in the back, was found in the East River. The indictment against Toffi was dismissed for lack of evidence.

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POLICE SEEK RELIEF IN CHANGED LAWS

Uniformed Force Will Ask for Permanency in Rank and Other Security

APPEAL TO LEGISLATURE

Mandatory Pensions for Dependents and 25 Years Service Limit Also Sought.

What is virtually a revision of the entire law governing the Police Department is asked by the combined benevolent associations of the uniformed force in a series of recommendations which have been submitted to the legislative committee of the department. Permanency of rank and withdrawal from the Police Commissioner and Mayor of the power to remove policemen of any grade is one of the things demanded, according to a synopsis of the proposed changes made public yesterday by John A. Leach, acting Commissioner.

City service examinations for all grades, retirement on a pension after twenty-five years of service, the abolition of the indefinite suspension law, the continuation of pay during sickness or other necessary absence, and that pensions to widows, orphans and dependents be made mandatory are other reforms sought.

After the examinations have passed, the recommendations they will be submitted to Commissioner Enright, and should he approve it is expected they will be presented to the forthcoming session of the Legislature.

Twenty-four Inspectors Affected.

Should the effort to make all ranks permanent be successful twenty-four police inspectors would be affected. Prior to 1907 their jobs were secure, but when Commissioner Bingham took office he had the Legislature revise the existing law so that the Commissioner and Mayor could pass upon the competency of an inspector and promote or demote as they saw fit.

If the changes desired are enacted into law 150 patrolmen who are acting as first grade detectives with salaries of \$2,250 a year (the pay of a police lieutenant) will be insured a continuance of their present income.

Under the existing law, conditions only must a man have served twenty-five years before he is entitled to retirement on a pension, but he also must have reached the age of 55 years. It is now proposed to do away with the age requirement and make the twenty-five year term of service alone requisite. It is also asked that all salaries in the department be put on a permanent basis and that the Board of Estimate be shorn of its present power to increase or lower them.

Relief for Suspended Men.

Immediate action in cases where men are suspended from the force because of alleged misconduct is asked. Under the present law long periods sometimes elapse during which the suspended men are held in limbo. The police men have no redress until his superiors choose to move in his case.

The legislative committee, which will pass upon the recommendations, is made up of acting Commissioner Leach as chairman, Col. Augustus D. Porter, secretary, and Messrs. Enright and a special Deputy Commissioner; William Lahey and John W. Goff, Jr., Deputy Commissioners, and John K. Rogers, chief clerk of the department. The men ask that action be taken upon their recommendations as a whole.

WORLD ECONOMIC COOPERATION URGED

Commerce Chamber Committee Would End Friction.

The Committee on Foreign Relations of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States yesterday made public a report on economic relations which was adopted unanimously last Thursday at a meeting of the organization in Atlantic City. It is the sense of the report that inasmuch as "clashing of economic forces" has been the cause of domestic and foreign disturbances throughout this recently sadly disturbed world, "every possible effort should be made to eliminate economic friction."

It is in the end the greatest good for all concerned can be accomplished through the development of a spirit of cooperation both at home and abroad.

If such cooperation between clashing economic forces is not brought about, the report continues, the military successes of the world war will have failed in their larger purposes. The lessons of military cooperation and unity learned by the Allies and America should be borne in mind and extended to the economic field of reconstruction and the peace work lying just ahead.

The committee submits four chief recommendations as follows:

"First—The endorsement of the principle of international economic cooperation, which is to include all nations similarly minded.

"Second—The appointment of a committee for the development of a better understanding and good will between the United States of America and other industrial nations.

"Third—A declaration to the effect that the business interests of our country stand opposed to any policy of exploitation.

"Fourth—A declaration endorsing the principle of service as basic to a proper international relationship."

The committee ends its report with a suggestion that the Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America call immediately an international convention on the order of a similar convention held in Paris in 1914, thus enabling the world's workers in economic problems to thresh out the troubles confronting the opposing economic forces.

Delaware Society Holds Luncheon.

The Delaware Society of New York, made up of natives of Delaware county now living here, held a victory luncheon yesterday in the Hotel McAlpin. The speakers were Lieut. Baron Raymond d'Alay, an officer of the French Blue Devils, who wears the Croix de Guerre with palms, and Lemuel Ely Quigg, one of the best known Delaware county folk in and about New York.

The Sun Calendar

THE WEATHER.

For Eastern New York—Partly cloudy and warmer to-day; to-morrow partly cloudy; moderate to southwest winds.

Western New York—Partly cloudy to-day and to-morrow, warmer to-day in east portion.

Southern New England—Partly cloudy to-day and to-morrow, warmer on the mainland; moderate variable winds, becoming south and southwest.

Northern New England—Cloudy and warmer to-day, probably local snows in the interior; to-morrow partly cloudy, with moderate variable winds, becoming south.

New Jersey—Partly cloudy to-day and to-morrow, warmer to-day; moderate southwest winds.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—A disturbance over the middle plateau is attended by general rains and snow in Nevada, Utah and Arizona and rain in western Colorado and southern California. Over the remainder of the country the weather was generally fair, although with much cloudiness and rapidly falling pressure in the Ohio valley, the lake region and the East. High temperatures prevail generally east of the Mississippi River, except in New York and New England, and in the warmer in New England and middle Atlantic States, and high temperatures will continue elsewhere.

| Stations. | Therm. | Barom. | Humid. | Wind. | Clouds. | Remarks. |
|---------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|---------|------------------|
| | High. | Low. | | Dir. | ct. | 21 hrs. Weather. |
| Atlantic City | 50 | 28 | 30.34 | SE | 100 | Cloudy |
| Baltimore | 44 | 28 | 30.00 | SE | 100 | Cloudy |
| Boston | 38 | 28 | 30.00 | SE | 100 | Cloudy |
| Chicago | 30 | 28 | 29.34 | SE | 100 | Cloudy |
| Cincinnati | 38 | 28 | 30.00 | SE | 100 | Cloudy |
| Cleveland | 38 | 28 | 30.00 | SE | 100 | Cloudy |
| Dayton | 38 | 28 | 30.00 | SE | 100 | Cloudy |
| Des Moines | 38 | 28 | 30.00 | SE | 100 | Cloudy |
| Indianapolis | 38 | 28 | 30.00 | SE | 100 | Cloudy |
| Kansas City | 38 | 28 | 30.00 | SE | 100 | Cloudy |
| Memphis | 38 | 28 | 30.00 | SE | 100 | Cloudy |
| Minneapolis | 38 | 28 | 30.00 | SE | 100 | Cloudy |
| Mobile | 38 | 28 | 30.00 | SE | 100 | Cloudy |
| New Orleans | 38 | 28 | 30.00 | SE | 100 | Cloudy |
| New York | 38 | 28 | 30.00 | SE | 100 | Cloudy |
| Philadelphia | 38 | 28 | 30.00 | SE | 100 | Cloudy |
| Pittsburgh | 38 | 28 | 30.00 | SE | 100 | Cloudy |
| Portland | 38 | 28 | 30.00 | SE | 100 | Cloudy |
| San Francisco | 38 | 28 | 30.00 | SE | 100 | Cloudy |
| Seattle | 38 | 28 | 30.00 | SE | 100 | Cloudy |
| St. Louis | 38 | 28 | 30.00 | SE | 100 | Cloudy |
| St. Paul | 38 | 28 | 30.00 | SE | 100 | Cloudy |
| Wash. D. C. | 38 | 28 | 30.00 | SE | 100 | Cloudy |